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CIA Letter Lends Some Support To Dodd's Committee Claims

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WASHINGTON — Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) has involved the Central Intelligence Agency in his efforts to vindicate himself of misconduct charges, the Senate Committee on Standards and Conduct disclosed Tuesday night.

The committee released the text of a letter which CIA Director Richard Helms had written to Sen. John C. Stennis (D-Miss.), the committee chairman, concerning Dodd's controversial trip to Germany in 1964.

Stennis said in a statement that the letter had been handed to him by a CIA representative

"who stated that it was in response to inquiries made by Sen. Dodd."

Called A Cover-Up

Helms' carefully worded letter, dated July 14, tended in part to support Dodd's claim that he made the trip as vice-chairman of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee to investigate a Soviet terror apparatus.

During ethics committee hearings last month, Dodd's former chief aide, James P. Boyd, testified that Dodd's claim of making the trip on Senate business was "a cover-up and nothing more."

Boyd said the real purpose was to help Dodd's old friend, Chicagoan Julius Klein, hold

on to some lucrative public relations accounts in West Germany. Dodd denied this and Klein, in testimony to the committee, said Dodd was of no help to him on the German trip.

In his letter to Stennis, Helms said Dodd had "asked that this agency confirm the fact of his contacts with this agency in obtaining information on Soviet murders, assassinations and kidnappings."

Denies A Request

But Dodd, when questioned by reporters before the committee released the letter, denied he had requested any letter from the CIA.

However, in his statement, Stennis said Dodd's attorney, John F. Sonnett, had sought to have the Helms letter placed in evidence at the committee's last meeting on July 19.

Helms said the CIA cooperated with Dodd's subcommittee in preparation of its study "by providing certain background material on Soviet murders, assassinations and kidnappings." He went on to say that Dodd and Martin also had met a CIA representative in Bonn and "discussed the subject of Soviet acts of terrorism."